

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 58006-74	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/CA 03/01211	International filing date (day/month/year) 08/08/2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)
Applicant FORDING INC.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 4 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.



the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :



contained in the international application in written form.



filed together with the international application in computer readable form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.



the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.



the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1



as suggested by the applicant.



because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



because this figure better characterizes the invention.



None of the figures.

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

Apparatus and process for separating particles of wollastonite ore and other aspect ratio materials into a relatively high aspect ratio constituent and a relatively low aspect ratio constituent includes an initial step of either size reducing (2) the material into particles of the aspect ratio material having a size less than a preselected maximum size or alternatively providing such particles of the aspect ratio material. The particles of the aspect ratio material are then separated (4) into a plurality of particle streams based on particle size such that each particle stream is formed substantially from particles within a particular range of particle sizes. Then, the particles in at least one particle stream are sorted (6) based on particle shape into the relatively high and relatively low aspect ratio constituents. The particle separation step (4) is preferably performed using mesh screening apparatus. The shape sorting step (6) is preferably performed using apparatus for separating grain.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B07B9/00 B07B13/00 B07B13/02 B07B15/00 C01B33/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B07B C01B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

WPI Data, EPO-Internal, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 200045 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class J01, AN 2000-504613 XP002274779 & RU 2 142 348 C (NPM STOCK), 10 December 1999 (1999-12-10) abstract	1-7, 13, 15, 19-21, 24-26
A	US 5 335 792 A (D. HAUCH) 9 August 1994 (1994-08-09) cited in the application column 2, line 36 -column 3, line 39 figures 1A-3	1, 14, 20, 23
A	EP 1 312 591 A (ASFIL) 21 May 2003 (2003-05-21) page 5, line 27 - line 31	27



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 March 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

08/04/2004

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
RU 2142348	C	10-12-1999	RU 2142348 C1	10-12-1999
US 5335792	A	09-08-1994	NONE	
EP 1312591	A	21-05-2003	EP 1312591 A1	21-05-2003